

## Fire Prevention

- Know two ways in and out of your home or business
- Develop an escape plan for your home, know where you will meet as a family
- If there is a fire in your home, call 911 from a neighbors house
- Learn the location of your fire extinguishers
- Change batteries in your smoke detectors at least once a year
- Ask for an evacuation plan at your place of business
- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of reach from children
- Use surge protectors instead of extension cords—extension cords are meant for short term use only and will short out when overloaded
- Do not hide cords under heavy items, this cuts the circulation of electrical flow
- Remember to extinguish candles and operate them safely
- **Do not go back in a burning building for any reason!**

### Facts & Figures on Vacant Bldgs from NFPA

- There were an average of 14,900 fires in vacant U.S. buildings or buildings under construction, renovation or demolition each year between 1994 through 1998, resulting in 13 civilian deaths, 66 injuries and \$118.9 million in direct property damage.
- Two-thirds of fires in vacant properties were incendiary or suspicious, accounting for three-quarters of direct property losses in this category.
- Almost three times as many child-playing fires occurred in vacant buildings as in educational properties.
- There were 5.6 firefighter injuries per 100 special structure (including vacant buildings and buildings under construction) fires per year between 1993 and 1997, compared to 1.9 injuries per fire at structure fires, in general.

## Fire Marshal's FYI

### Fireworks

Fireworks are illegal in the City of La Porte. It is illegal to possess, transport, ignite or sell fireworks in the City of La Porte. Confiscation of illegal fireworks and a municipal court fine up to \$2,000 may be levied against anyone in violation of this prohibition.

### Smoke Detectors Affidavits

Apartments, boarding houses, hotels, motels and inns are required by City ordinance to have a current, signed and notarized affidavit on file with the Fire Marshal's Office stating that all units have a working operating smoke detector. Delinquent facilities may have City of La Porte Municipal Court charges brought against them for failure to comply. Direct all questions regarding this affidavit to the Fire Marshal's Office.

### Senior Citizens Smoke Detector Program

The Fire Marshal's Office through cooperation with donations from Fischer's Hardware conducts a smoke detector program by installing or replacing smoke detectors and batteries free in senior citizen's homes. Senior Citizens can sign up for this free program at the Senior Citizen center or by contacting our office.

### Fire Department

The City of La Porte Fire Department's Fire Administration is located at 124 South Second Street, La Porte TX, 77571 and can be reached at 281-471-3607.

For Program information call the Fire Marshal's Office

### La Porte Fire Marshal's Office



**604 W. Fairmont Pkwy. La Porte TX. 77571**

**Fire Marshal—Laurie L. Christensen, CFI**

**Deputy Fire Marshal— Philip Creamer**

**Secretary— Glenda Hunter-Williams**

**Office: 281-487-4603**

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## La Porte Fire Marshal's Office

*Fire Prevention is a  
Burning Issue!*



### *The duties of the Fire Marshal are:*

- Maintain records of all fires within the city.
- Coordinate fire prevention/public education programs.
- Investigate cause & origin of fires occurring within the city and if deemed arson pursue the arrest and prosecution of defendants.
- Inspect all businesses/State Certified Institutions annually for fire and life safety hazards
- Assist Public in maintaining a safe and healthy environment

*The La Porte Fire Marshal follows the Standard Fire Prevention Code, 1994 Edition, and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 1997 along with adopted amendments.*

# *Fire Prevention is a Burning Issue!*

## **Life Safety Inspections**

The objective of fire and life safety inspections includes providing for a safe, healthy environment by enforcement of fire and safety regulations. This is accomplished by discovering and requiring the deficiency be corrected that poses a threat to life and property from fire.

## **Public Fire Education**

Public Fire Education is intended to teach the general public about the dangers of fire and how to incorporate fire safety into their daily activities. These programs are offered to all areas of the general populace, this includes day cares, schools, civic groups, senior organizations and local community outreach programs.

## **Fire Cause & Origin**

The Fire Marshal is an Investigator, Fire Inspector who must meet the requirements of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education. The Fire Marshal is required to have the following certifications:

- Fire & Arson Investigator
- Fire Inspector
- Texas Peace Officer

Responsibilities include the following:

- Fire Investigations
- Fire & Life Safety Inspections
- Instruct in Fire & Arson Prevention
- Conduct Public Education Classes
- Law Enforcement (Police)

The objective of a fire investigation is to determine the cause and origin of the fire. Interviews must be conducted, evidence collected, and comprehensive reports of all findings prepared.

If, during the initial stages of inquiry, evidence of criminal activity is uncovered, the Fire Investigator must automatically assume their secondary role, to identify and move against those responsible. A Fire Investigator who has reason to believe that arson was committed, is obligated to develop the case to its fullest extent this may include filing of criminal charges and serving as a witness for the prosecution.

## **Right of Entry**

The La Porte Fire Marshal's Office has the authority /duty to enter public buildings for life safety inspections. City Ordinance Section 38-64 states: "It shall be the duty of the Fire Marshal, annually or more often, to enter upon and make a thorough examination of all mercantile, manufactured and public buildings."

## **New Construction**

*Some of the items new business owners will need to know:*

- Will require all building and permit requirements be met
- 1994 Standard Edition Fire Code
- 1997 Life Safety Code NFPA 101
- Adopted Amendments
- Business or New Owner Name Change Inspection
- Tamper proof covers on pull stations
- Hydro sprinkler test
- Alarm test
- Labeled Fire Dept. Connection
- Address must be posted with 4" numbers

## **Inspections**

Inspections are performed to protect citizens and business owners from the danger of fire. Inspections also allow fire protection personnel to learn what type of combustibles are in a particular type business, which enhances their ability to fight the fire if needed.

## **Examples of items reviewed on an inspection**

- General Housekeeping – 1994 SFPC 502.1
- Discontinue use of EXTENSION CORDS – 1994 SFPC 703.1
- Provide covers for electrical switches / outlets – 1994 SFPC 701.2.2
- Means of – 5.2.1.7.2
- Exit signs (repair or install) – NFPA 101 5.10.1
- Emergency Lighting (repair or install) – NFPA 101 5.10.5.2
- MOUNT extinguishers not more than (5) feet above floor – NFPA 10
- Service fire extinguishers – NFPA 10
- Service FIRE ALARM – 1994 SFPC 603.19
- Service SPRINKLER SYSTEM – 1194 SFPC 603.19
- Remove accumulation of COMBUSTIBLE WASTE – 1994 SFPC 502.1
- Label Fire Department Connections – 1994 SFPC 603.16.1
- Provide ACCESS to Fire Department connection – 1994 SFPC 603.16.1
- Provide flammable storage Cabinet – 1994 SFPC 904.2.7.1
- Expired/Inactive TABC or Health License
- Maintain 3 foot clearance to electrical equipment – 1994 SFPC 705